

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA  
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

United States of America,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	File No. 4:12-mj-152
	)	
Jeffrey Jim Butler, aka "Pops,"	)	
Nicholas James Gordon Woodford,	)	
Zachary Russell Mills, Tyler	)	
Michael White, and James Dean	)	
Odeneal,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

TRANSCRIPT OF PROBABLE CAUSE  
AND DETENTION HEARING

Taken at  
United States Courthouse  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
September 10 and 11, 2012

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHARLES S. MILLER, JR.  
-- UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGE --

APPEARANCES

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FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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- - - - -

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FOR THE DEFENDANT  
JAMES DEAN ODENEAL

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GOVERNMENT WITNESS

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Special Agent Terrance Frank

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Certificate of Court Reporter

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1 (The above-entitled matter came before the Court, The  
 2 Honorable Charles S. Miller, Jr., United States District Court  
 3 Magistrate Judge, presiding, commencing at 2:07 p.m., Monday,  
 4 September 10, 2012, in the United States Courthouse, Bismarck,  
 5 North Dakota; with counsel appearing on behalf of the  
 6 respective defendants as hereinbefore indicated. The following  
 7 proceedings were had and made of record in open court with  
 8 Defendant Woodford, Defendant White, and Defendant Odeneal  
 9 present:)

02:07

10 - - - - -

11 THE COURT: We'll go on the record in Magistrate's  
 12 Number 4-12-152, United States of America versus a number of  
 13 defendants, including James Dean Odeneal, Tyler Michael White,  
 14 and Nicholas James Gordon Woodford. Present in court are the  
 15 defendants. Appearing on behalf of Mr. Odeneal is  
 16 Mr. Tuntland, who the Court is appointing or has appointed as  
 17 counsel; Mr. Glass on behalf of Mr. White; and Mr. Espeseth on  
 18 behalf of Mr. Woodford. All of you gentlemen have requested  
 19 court-appointed counsel. Is that correct, Mr. Woodford?

02:08

20 MR. WOODFORD: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And, Mr. White, same with you?

22 MR. WHITE: (Nodding.)

23 THE COURT: And, Mr. Odeneal, same with you?

24 MR. ODENEAL: Yes, sir.

02:09

25 THE COURT: Present in court is Mr. Volk on behalf of

1 the United States and Mr. Hagler. Mr. Odeneal, I -- when you  
2 appeared, I guess you had some concerns about proceeding by  
3 videoconference, but have you received a copy of the Complaint?

02:09 4 MR. TUNTLAND: You've received this. I provided him  
5 with a copy, Your Honor, and I believe he had one when I spoke  
6 to him up in Rugby on Friday.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Odeneal, as the Magistrate  
8 Judge explained to you by video, you do have the right to  
9 remain silent. Anything that you say can be used against you.  
02:09 10 If you have said anything to anyone prior to appearing in  
11 court, that does not mean you have to say anything further. If  
12 you start to say, anything you can stop at any time. You don't  
13 have to say anything without first having consulted with an  
14 attorney.

02:09 15 You do have the right to be represented by an  
16 attorney, and, in fact, I've appointed one for you. In  
17 addition, you have the right to have an attorney present with  
18 you if anyone should attempt to question you in the future.  
19 Those are the things that I think Judge Klein went over with  
02:10 20 you when she saw you by video, but you had concerns about  
21 appearing by video.

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: In addition, each of you has the right to  
24 have a hearing on the issue of release or detention and also a  
02:10 25 preliminary hearing for me to determine whether there's

1 probable cause to believe that you have committed the crime as  
2 charged in the Complaint, and that's the subject of today's  
3 proceedings, I believe. Is that correct, Mr. Volk?

4 MR. VOLK: Yes, Your Honor.

02:10 5 THE COURT: The United States then may proceed. And  
6 I guess my intention here would be to make a combined record  
7 that would apply to both the detention hearing and the  
8 preliminary hearing, so we don't have to listen to some of the  
9 same evidence twice. In addition, the Court will make a part  
02:10 10 of the record the Pretrial Services Report that's been prepared  
11 for each of the individuals, and the attorneys can proffer any  
12 additions or corrections as we proceed. With that background  
13 then, Mr. Volk, you may proceed.

14 MR. VOLK: The United States calls Terrance Frank,  
02:11 15 Your Honor.

16 SPECIAL AGENT TERRANCE FRANK,  
17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
18 follows:

19 THE COURT: And, Mr. Glass, you still have a 3:30  
02:11 20 appearance in state court?

21 MR. GLASS: I do, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. If we get toward the end here and  
23 we haven't quite finished, we may have to continue with you  
24 tomorrow, but -- you and your client, but we'll -- hopefully  
02:11 25 we'll get through it. Very good.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. VOLK:

3 Q. Agent Frank, could you tell the Court your name and  
4 occupation, please?

02:11 5 A. My name is Terrance Frank. I'm a special agent with the  
6 FBI.

7 Q. You work out of the Minot office, is that correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And, Agent Frank, you have been involved in the  
02:12 10 investigation of injuries that occurred to an individual by the  
11 name of Robert Osterhout?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. You've been working in conjunction with the Williston,  
14 North Dakota, police department in that investigation, is that  
02:12 15 correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Could you explain to the Court how authorities became  
18 involved with Mr. Osterhout?

19 A. On August 13th, at approximately 5:43 a.m., 911 out in  
02:12 20 Culbertson, Montana, received a -- received a phone call from a  
21 resident out in the area that they had a bloodied, beaten-up  
22 guy that came up to his house and so contacted law enforcement.  
23 From there law enforcement came out. They took what type of  
24 statement -- what kind of statement they could, because he was  
02:13 25 in pretty bad condition, from him at the time and found out

1 that he was last in williston, and then he was transported to  
2 the hospital in culbertson.

3 Q. He was eventually transported to Trinity Hospital in  
4 Minot --

02:13

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. -- is that correct? And you've had contact with Mr.  
7 Osterhout at Trinity Hospital in Minot?

8 A. That's correct.

02:13

9 Q. Could you describe his physical condition as he appeared  
10 when you met with him?

11 A. Yes. He was -- he was pretty banged up. It was his --  
12 his right eye was completely swollen shut still. He had a  
13 really bad ligature mark around his neck, as well as bruising  
14 all over his jaw, his neckline. He had cuts on his face. He  
15 proceeded to tell me that he had a few broken ribs, like four  
16 or five. I had him lift his shirt. He showed me the area  
17 where the injury was, and it was completely black and purple.  
18 And he also told me about a fractured collarbone, as well as  
19 injury to his back, and he showed me that as well, and that was  
20 pretty much black and blue as well.

02:13

02:14

21 Q. All right. Did you ask Mr. Osterhout to describe to you  
22 what he recalled that led to him receiving those injuries?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. What did he describe to you had occurred?

02:14

25 A. He told me that he was taken to a campsite where the



02:14 1 individuals were in williston, were staying at because he had  
2 no place to stay. He had recently lost his job in Sidney,  
3 Montana, so he had no place to stay. An individual by the name  
4 of Jeffrey Butler said he could stay with him at his camper,  
5 his campsite that he had, so he went there. while he was there  
6 he was just talking with some friends, and Nick woodford told  
7 him to come over to another camper, where him and Zac and Tyler  
8 were. while he was over there talking, they were asking him  
9 questions, you know, asking him basically why he snitched. And  
02:15 10 before he could even say anything is when he was hit by someone  
11 with brass knuckles, he identified as Zac Mills. And then he  
12 said from there he was just beaten by Nick and Zac.

13 Q. He was beaten by Nick and Zac, Nick being who?

14 A. Nicholas woodford.

02:15 15 Q. And Zac is who?

16 A. Zachary Mills.

17 Q. Did he indicate that he was struck or injured in any other  
18 ways?

19 A. Yes. He said that he was hit with brass knuckles. He  
02:16 20 said he was also tased multiple times with tasers, and that Zac  
21 actually used a razor blade to cut his face.

22 Q. Did Mr. Osterhout indicate that Jeff Butler was present at  
23 any point in time?

24 A. Yes. He said the beating went on for -- he doesn't -- he  
02:16 25 doesn't recall how long it went on for. He said some time

1 elapsed, and eventually Jeff Butler came into the camper where  
2 he was and told everybody in there to clean him up and get rid  
3 of him.

4 Q. Did he indicate what happened after that?

02:16

5 A. He said that he was basically -- he was wrapped up. His  
6 hands and his feet were bound. Duct tape was placed over his  
7 mouth, and he was wrapped up in a plastic sheet and placed in a  
8 trunk of a vehicle.

9 Q. Did he know who had bound his hands and feet?

02:17

10 A. He just said that Nick and Zac tied him up.

11 Q. Did he indicate what happened after he was thrown into the  
12 vehicle?

13 A. He said that he tried to struggle to get free, and then  
14 that's the last thing he remembered.

02:17

15 Q. What did he remember?

16 A. Being in the trunk of the vehicle when the car was moving,  
17 and he tried to struggle to get out, but then he just remembers  
18 waking up in the hospital after that.

19 Q. As the investigation continued, was there information  
20 gathered from Zac Mills?

02:17

21 A. That is correct. A few days after the incident he was --  
22 he traveled to Montana and spoke with Yellowstone County  
23 sheriffs out there and gave a statement basically saying that  
24 he was involved in a beating of someone and that they thought  
25 he was dead and that he was in fear of his life now because he

02:18

02:18

1 knows exactly what happened, you know, to this guy. He was  
2 involved in it, and he was afraid that the other individuals  
3 involved were going to come after him and get him, so he gave a  
4 statement to them and as well as FBI out there, and then he  
5 moved on, out to Oregon.

6 THE COURT: And this was which individual again?

7 THE WITNESS: This was Zachary Mills.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

02:19

9 Q. (MR. VOLK CONTINUING) Mr. Mills provided some information  
10 about others who were involved in this incident?

11 A. That's correct. He said that Nick Woodford was involved,  
12 Jeffrey Butler was involved, Tyler White was involved, and  
13 James Odeneal.

02:19

14 Q. And that information was transmitted to the Williston  
15 Police Department, is that correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And subsequently did the Williston Police Department have  
18 occasion to make an arrest of Tyler White?

19 A. That's correct.

02:19

20 Q. Where did they arrest him at?

21 A. They arrested him at the camper site that's located -- I  
22 believe it was 821 -- I don't have the exact address -- 821  
23 West Broadway.

24 Q. Is that in the city of Williston?

02:19

25 A. Yes, in the city of Williston.

1 Q. Can you give the Court a description of what's located on  
2 that property?

3 A. There's an actual house there, and in the yard there's  
4 approximately five campers, two of which are -- I believe two  
5 of which are RVs, two are pull-along -- or two are popup, two  
6 are pull-along, and one is an RV.

7 Q. So there's an RV. When you say pull-along or popup,  
8 you're talking about campers?

9 A. Yes, so they're all campers.

10 Q. And Mr. White was located at that property?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. When the Williston Police Department made contact for that  
13 arrest, did they also determine there was a surveillance system  
14 set up on this property?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Can you describe what that consisted of?

17 A. That there was a -- that there was cameras, you know,  
18 obviously set up, as well as a TV monitor that they -- that  
19 they seized that was connected to this surveillance system.

20 Q. Had the Williston Police Department attempted to conduct  
21 some surveillance at that location prior to the arrest being  
22 conducted?

23 A. That is correct. Approximately -- I believe it was the  
24 day before they actually went out to do some surveillance and  
25 take some photos.

1 Q. And while they were doing that, were the agents confronted  
2 by an individual on the property?

3 A. That's correct. They were -- while they were out there,  
4 James Odeneal approached their vehicle and asked what they were  
5 doing. And they asked him, you know, who he was, for  
6 identification, and he gave them the wrong name.

7 Q. He gave them a false name.

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Did they take him into custody at that time?

10 A. No, they did not.

11 Q. And then they later returned to make the arrest?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. At the time of Tyler White's arrest, did he have any  
14 weapons on his person or have access to any weapons?

15 A. Yes, he did. He had a gun on his hip, a handgun that was  
16 on his hip, and he also had a shotgun that was located in his  
17 camper as well, sawed-off shotgun.

18 Q. Sawed-off shotgun.

19 A. That correct.

20 Q. In his camper?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. And you said he had a pistol on his hip. How did he have  
23 a pistol on his hip?

24 A. It was holstered on his hip.

25 Q. Do you recall what kind of pistol that was?

1 A. I believe -- I believe a Bersa.

2 Q. Was Mr. White interviewed by the Williston Police  
3 Department?

4 A. Yes, he was interviewed as well.

02:22

5 Q. He was provided with his Miranda warning, agreed to speak  
6 to them?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Did Mr. White provide some information about what he knew  
9 of the assault of Mr. Osterhout?

02:23

10 A. Yes, he did, he described it.

11 Q. Can you tell the Court what Mr. White described had  
12 occurred and what his involvement was?

02:23

13 A. In regards to the incident with Robert Osterhout, he's  
14 referred to by them as Bobby, so -- but I guess he told them  
15 that Bobby went to go and purchase meth from them, and that's  
16 kind of how they first came in contact with him. While Bobby  
17 was there at one time, he was -- he was taken into a camper  
18 where Nick and Zac were in, and the lights were out in it. He  
19 heard the -- he heard a taser go off inside, so he poked his  
20 head inside to see, you know, what was going on, and he saw  
21 that Bobby was being beaten by Nick and Zac. And they told him  
22 to get outside and watch -- watch the area, so he went back  
23 outside, and it continued on.

02:24

24 Then I guess Jeff went to the -- I guess he told them  
25 that Jeff went there as well, Jeff Butler, and he went inside

02:24

1 the camper once or twice, and then after -- after which James  
2 also was there.

3 Q. James who?

02:24 4 A. James Odeneal. He also, I guess, went to the trailer, and  
5 they told him to get outside as well. After that Jeff went  
6 into the -- Jeff basically went into the camper and told them  
7 to get rid of him, and at that time James and Tyler went to go  
8 get plastic from James' place and brought the plastic back, and  
9 Zac and Nick wrapped up Bobby's body. And you have to remember  
02:25 10 I interviewed him as well too, so I'm trying to stick with what  
11 they gave me as opposed to what I have as well.

12 Q. All right.

13 A. So they wrapped him up in plastic. At the time I believe  
14 Bobby was still kicking and moving, and Nick and Zac loaded  
02:26 15 Bobby into the trunk of a car. Then Tyler got in the vehicle.  
16 Jeff got in the vehicle. James and Nick, they all got in the  
17 vehicle as well, and they drove west from Williston, and they  
18 drove for a while.

19 Once they -- once they got out to a dirt road --  
02:26 20 yeah, they got out to a dirt road after driving for a while,  
21 and Bobby jumped out of the trunk of the car, and they went and  
22 chased him down. At that time, what he told Williston was that  
23 he was told to stay with the car, so he stayed with the  
24 vehicle, and Jeff, Nick and James -- or, no, Jeff, Nick and --  
02:27 25 Jeff, Nick and Zac went after Bobby.

1 THE COURT: Hold on just a moment. Okay. Go ahead.

2 THE WITNESS: So Jeff, Nick and Zac went after Bobby,  
3 and Tyler stayed with the car. Approximately 20 minutes later  
4 they came back to the vehicle and they drove really quickly  
5 back home.

02:27

6 Q. (MR. VOLK CONTINUING) And did he indicate what happened  
7 when they -- when you say "back home," you mean back to  
8 Williston?

9 A. Yes, back to Williston.

02:27

10 Q. Did Mr. White explain what happened when they got back to  
11 Williston?

12 A. Yes, he said that Zac took everyone's clothes and he  
13 burned them. And the reason why James didn't go with them is  
14 because he had to watch the yard while everyone else was gone,  
15 the yard meaning the campsite.

02:28

16 Q. Did Mr. White indicate what happened to the plastic that  
17 was used to line the trunk?

18 A. Yes, they burned that as well with the clothes.

19 Q. Just to be clear, Mr. White indicated he did what with the  
20 plastic material during his -- during his interview with the  
21 Williston Police Department --

02:28

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- what did Mr. White indicate that he was doing with the  
24 plastic material?

02:28

25 A. He assisted -- he assisted with helping James move it over



1 to where Bobby was.

2 Q. And that plastic material, what else was done with it?

3 A. Bobby was wrapped up with it.

4 Q. Was there anything done to the car with that plastic  
5 material?

6 A. Yes, James -- he said James lined the trunk of the vehicle  
7 with the plastic.

8 Q. And at the time, just prior to them -- to Mr. White  
9 obtaining that plastic material, did he indicate that he was  
10 aware that Mr. Osterhout was being assaulted?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. He had actually looked in?

13 A. You're saying James?

14 Q. I'm sorry, Mr. White.

15 A. Mr. White, yes. Yes. Tyler, yes, he poked his head in,  
16 saw what was being done after he heard the taser go off, saw he  
17 was being beaten.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. And was told to get out and watch.

20 Q. Now, you indicated that you had some further contact with  
21 Mr. White later on?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. You obtained a federal Criminal Complaint for his arrest?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. And did you actually pick up Mr. White from Williston on

1 September 5th of 2012?

2 A. Yes, among others.

3 Q. And was he transported to Minot?

4 A. That is correct.

02:30

5 Q. And you were the one that transported him during that  
6 trip, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And it's during that time that you had additional  
9 discussions with Mr. white?

02:30

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. During -- was he provided with a Miranda warning before  
12 those discussions?

13 A. Yes, he was.

02:30

14 Q. And during that trip, did Mr. white advise you anything  
15 further about the gun or guns that he had access to?

16 A. Yes. I asked him specifically about the -- about the  
17 weapon and the other weapons that were found during the search  
18 warrant, and he advised that Jeff Butler provided them all with  
19 weapons, with guns.

02:30

20 Q. What was the purpose of that?

21 A. You know, we talked about the gun and, you know, about,  
22 "You know what that's used for." And he said, well, no, his  
23 intentions weren't ever to kill anybody, but just for  
24 intimidation and for protection.

02:31

25 Q. Did Mr. white indicate that there was any drug activity

1 ongoing?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What did he say about that?

4 A. He said -- he basically talked about how they had -- they  
5 had a group of people which, you know, they called the family,  
6 but among others was specifically four of them, which they  
7 called themselves the four horsemen. That was Jeffrey Butler,  
8 that's Nicholas Woodford, James Odeneal, and that's Tyler  
9 white, and those were supposedly the -- he said the four  
10 horsemen, and they -- what they mainly did was sell meth.

11 He said that him -- everybody in the group had  
12 specific roles. Jeff's role -- Jeffrey Butler's role, he was  
13 basically the leader and the money man. He controlled all the  
14 money. He's the one who got the dope or got the meth, and he  
15 would get the meth from two other individuals. And Jeff would  
16 give it to -- Jeff would give it to Tyler, who Tyler said his  
17 role was the weight man, where he would weigh everything out  
18 and package it so they could distribute it. Tyler specifically  
19 said that that was -- Jeff was the only one -- or Tyler was the  
20 only one that Jeff trusted to be in charge of that process, so  
21 he would package it up. He would weigh it out, package it up,  
22 and then they would all sell.

23 He told me that he would sell approximately like a  
24 half an ounce a day, but the total of the whole group that was  
25 selling, they would sell approximately two ounces every other

02:33 1 day. He gave -- I also asked him about a street value of, you  
2 know, what he was charging for these ounces, and he said  
3 between 5,000 and 5,600 dollars an ounce. And I asked him,  
4 "well, what is your total that you would make in a week,  
5 approximately?" And he proceeded to say between 20 to 40  
6 thousand dollars.

7 Q. During your -- either your or the williston P.D.  
8 interviews with Mr. white, did he describe how it was that he  
9 ended up coming out to live at this property?

02:33 10 A. Yes. He met Jeffrey Butler in Trinity Hospital in Minot.  
11 Jeff (sic) had some injuries to his arm, and he was in the  
12 hospital, and I guess in the same room with him was Jeffrey  
13 Butler, who also had injuries to his neck at the time, so they  
14 met up and got talking to each other. And then Tyler had a  
02:34 15 fight with his family, and Jeff offered for him to move out  
16 there with him, so that's how he got hooked up with Jeff.

17 Q. All right. Do you see Mr. white in the courtroom today?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you identify for the Court which individual is  
02:34 20 Mr. white?

21 A. He's the gentleman with the Chicago Bulls jersey, Michael  
22 Jordan.

23 Q. Was Nicholas woodford one of the individuals who was also  
24 arrested by the williston Police Department on this property?

02:34 25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And "on this property" meaning the 821 West Broadway?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. At the time of his arrest, did Mr. Woodford have or have  
4 access to any weapons?

02:35

5 A. Yes. When they were doing the search, they went up to --  
6 they went up to a camper that was there, located at the edge of  
7 the property. And when detectives were out there, they looked  
8 in the window and they saw that he was crouched down by the  
9 door. When they were finally able to have him answer the door,

02:35

10 they asked him, you know, "what were you doing?" They searched  
11 -- you know, they searched it. They found a gun. They asked,  
12 you know, where was this gun -- you know, I mean, or what's  
13 this gun all about? And he proceeded to tell them that he had  
14 the gun on him while they were doing the search, and as soon  
15 as -- or before they were doing the search, but as soon as he  
16 saw cops come by his window, he took the gun off of his hip and  
17 placed it in a drawer.

02:35

18 Q. What kind of gun was this?

19 A. I believe it was a Ruger.

02:36

20 Q. A handgun?

21 A. Handgun. Sorry. Yeah.

22 Q. Was Mr. Woodford interviewed by the Williston Police  
23 Department?

24 A. That is correct.

02:36

25 Q. And you've had occasion to review that interview?

1 A. Yes, I have.

2 Q. Did Mr. Woodford explain what had happened with Mr.  
3 Osterhout?

4 A. Yes, he did.

02:36

5 Q. What did he say?

6 A. Okay. He basically said that Bobby, Robert, was there  
7 twice that day. He was there once in the day -- daytime and he  
8 was basically just freaking out, talking about the FBI  
9 following him and just acting bizarre, so they escorted him off

02:37

10 the property. Then the -- he came back that evening. Again,  
11 they asked him to leave. He didn't want to leave the property,  
12 so Nick said that they had just got done doing -- or he had  
13 just got done doing a gram of meth and he was feeling pretty  
14 powerful -- pretty powerful, pretty high, so they said that --  
15 or he said that he basically just beat up -- beat up Bobby with  
16 Zac. He -- sorry.

02:37

17 Q. Did Mr. Woodford indicate whether he was taking any  
18 pleasure out of beating up Mr. Osterhout?

19 A. Oh, yeah, he said that -- I mean, he was pretty brazen  
20 about it in his interview that they -- you know, he whooped --  
21 he whooped the shit out of him and it felt good, you know, but  
22 he said it was something that wouldn't be fun to someone who's  
23 sober, but he wasn't sober.

02:38

24 Q. Did he indicate that the further he and Zac got into it,  
25 the more fun they had beating up Mr. Osterhout?

02:38

1 A. Yeah. He basically, yeah, was just talking about how, you  
2 know, it just started as a -- like a beat-down, and then it  
3 just started to go too far, but he wasn't stopping it.

02:38 4 Q. Did he indicate whether any weapons were utilized to  
5 assault Mr. Osterhout?

6 A. He talked about -- he talks a lot about assaulting him  
7 brutally.

8 Q. Let me clarify the question.

9 A. Yeah, if you could.

02:39 10 Q. Did he indicate that there were weapons used by either he  
11 or Zac Mills?

12 A. Yeah. I mean, he talks about at one point that Zac was --  
13 Zac was the kind of guy that didn't like to use his hands, and  
14 so he used a taser on Bobby. He also talked about how he liked  
02:40 15 to put cigarettes out on people as well.

16 Q. Did he indicate that he had also utilized brass knuckles,  
17 that Mr. Mills had used the brass knuckles?

18 A. I believe so, yes.

19 Q. Did Mr. Woodford indicate what happened with Bobby, the  
02:40 20 victim, after he was assaulted at the camper in Williston?

21 A. Yes. I mean, at first he was saying that, you know, he --  
22 after beating him up, he said he just stayed back there and  
23 just got high, but after more talking with the detective, he  
24 indicated that Jeff, Tyler, himself and Zac all drove out to  
02:41 25 Montana with Bobby in the trunk of the vehicle.

1 Q. Did he indicate how Bobby got in the trunk of the vehicle?

2 A. Yeah, he said that -- he said -- he said Zac and James put  
3 Bobby in the trunk of the vehicle.

4 Q. Did Mr. Woodford indicate where they drove to?

02:41

5 A. Yes, he said that -- when he actually revised what he was  
6 saying, that they drove out to Montana.

7 Q. And did he indicate what happened out in Montana?

02:42

8 A. Yeah, he said that they got out to Montana and that Bobby  
9 jumped out of the back of the trunk, started to run. He said  
10 that -- that they ran after him and that they started stomping  
11 him. They started stomping his neck and beating him up. He  
12 said at one point that he used his sweatshirt string to choke  
13 -- to try to choke Bobby and to -- and to save him, but it  
14 broke, so he said that everyone that was there, their hands  
15 went around Bobby's throat. And it goes on to say that he  
16 couldn't control what was going on and that -- you know, he  
17 said that they basically whooped his -- they whooped his butt  
18 again.

02:42

19 And he said that was only supposed to be -- at first  
20 his part of it was just whooping his butt. But, you know, the  
21 detective asked, "well, you know, why were you guys doing  
22 this?" And he said that he was told to because Bobby knew too  
23 much and he was just a witness to what he went through. And  
24 then the detective proceeded to ask, you know, "well, what did  
25 he just go through?" And he said, you know, the butt whooping

02:43

02:43



1 that they gave him. Then he said it was an attempt, and it was  
2 a botched attempt, but it was an attempt. And the detective  
3 asked, you know, "was it an attempt at murder?" And Nick  
4 looked at him and indicated yes.

02:43

5 Q. Okay. Do you see the person you know as Nicholas Woodford  
6 in court today?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Please point him out and described what he's wearing today  
9 for the Judge.

02:44

10 A. He's the gentleman in the flannel shirt, sleeves rolled  
11 up.

12 Q. Was James Odeneal another one of the individuals who was  
13 arrested at the 821 West Broadway --

14 A. That's correct.

02:44

15 Q. -- address in Williston?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. At the time that he was arrested at that property, did  
18 Mr. Odeneal have any weapons on his person or accessible to  
19 him?

02:44

20 A. Yes. Police found brass knuckles in his pocket, and he  
21 indicated that they weren't his, though.

22 Q. Did he say whose they were?

23 A. I'm not sure.

02:45

24 Q. That's fine. During the time that the officers were at  
25 the property, did Mr. Odeneal identify which camper was his?

1 A. Yes, during -- throughout the course of -- throughout the  
2 course of multiple interviews with him, he indicated that it  
3 was his camper that was used in the beating of Bobby.

4 Q. And that was what's called a Bethany brand popup?

02:45

5 A. Yeah, popup camper, correct.

6 Q. And did the Williston Police Department conduct a search  
7 of that camper?

02:46

8 A. Yes, they did, based on the information that they received  
9 from him and the account of saying that there was -- there was  
10 blood on the cushions and on the -- on the curtains and that  
11 they tried to clean up the blood. Based on that information,  
12 they were able to obtain a search warrant and view that for  
13 themselves.

14 Q. Did they observe blood inside of that camper?

02:46

15 A. That is correct. They actually took some as evidence as  
16 well, from the screen.

17 Q. Did the officers who conducted the search also locate any  
18 drugs or drug paraphernalia in that camper?

19 A. Yes, at the time of the search.

02:46

20 Q. What kinds of things were found in the camper, do you  
21 recall?

22 A. I really -- I mean, in each place that they searched, they  
23 found drugs, they found drug paraphernalia, and they found  
24 weapons.

02:46

25 Q. Did they find money?

1 A. That is correct. They found money too, as well.

2 Q. What kind of money did they find?

3 A. I believe it was in Jeffrey -- in Jeffrey Butler's camper  
4 they found -- they found five -- five stacks consisting of five  
5 \$20 bills in each stack, and they also found a couple hundred  
6 dollar bills as well.

7 Q. Did they find razor blades in Mr. Odeneal's camper?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And Mr. Odeneal was interviewed by the Williston Police  
10 Department?

11 A. Yes, he was multiple times.

12 Q. Multiple times. Okay. During his initial interview, did  
13 Mr. Odeneal indicate where he had come from, how long he had  
14 been in North Dakota?

15 A. Yes, he said that he was originally from Fresno,  
16 California, and that he had only -- he had only been in North  
17 Dakota for close to a year, couple months to a year, and that  
18 he had been working at Hardee's, and before he came in contact  
19 with Jeff or anybody, he was homeless, sleeping in his car.

20 Q. Did he indicate that he was a methamphetamine user?

21 A. Yeah. Yeah, he said he had been using since he was  
22 13 years old.

23 Q. During the second interview with -- I'm sorry?

24 A. If I can -- if I can advise, during that interview, that  
25 is when Odeneal said that Nick had him hold the brass knuckles

1 for him.

2 Q. All right. During that first interview, did Mr. Odeneal  
3 indicate that he was aware of any of this assault taking place  
4 with respect to Mr. Osterhout?

02:49

5 A. No, he -- during the interviews themselves, no, but  
6 afterwards, after the second interview when they left the  
7 interview room, he began crying and told the officer that his  
8 only part in the kidnapping was that he lined the trunk with  
9 plastic.

02:49

10 Q. Lined the trunk of a vehicle?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did he identify what vehicle this was, did he or any of  
13 the others?

14 A. Yes. Yes, they did.

02:49

15 Q. What vehicle was that?

16 A. It was a four-door -- four-door gray vehicle.

17 Q. Whose vehicle was that?

18 A. Jeffrey Butler's.

02:50

19 Q. During the time when -- after the conclusion of the second  
20 interview, when Mr. Odeneal was describing that his conduct  
21 involved lining the trunk of this vehicle, did he indicate that  
22 he was afraid in any way?

02:50

23 A. Oh, the second -- yes, he said that he was afraid, you  
24 know, what was going to happen to him. He didn't want to be  
25 around these guys anymore. He wanted to change his name.

1 Q. And he was interviewed for a third time as well, is that  
2 correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. On this third occasion did he go into further detail about  
5 -- in reference to the assault of Mr. Osterhout?

6 A. Yeah, he basically -- I mean, he started off by saying  
7 that, you know, Jeff said he would take full responsibility for  
8 everything that occurred on that day, and that he stated that  
9 he was not with them when they took Bobby, and that his -- his  
10 part was just to line the trunk with plastic wrap. He said  
11 that the plastic wrap that they used was actually his plastic  
12 wrap from his camper.

13 Q. Did he indicate that he had observed the assault occurring  
14 in his camper of Mr. Osterhout?

15 A. In the interview that I did with White, I mean, he  
16 indicates that he did see what was going on.

17 Q. Tyler White told you.

18 A. Yes, that's correct.

19 Q. During the interview of Tyler White, he indicated that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did Mr. Odenial indicate that he had to remove anything  
22 out of the trunk of the car before plastic was lined in there?

23 A. Yes, he took -- he took items out of the trunk of the  
24 vehicle so he could line it with the plastic.

25 Q. And once that was done, what happened at that point?

02:52 1 A. And then they just basically -- he said that they  
2 basically -- he didn't want to know what was going on. He  
3 didn't want to know what they were doing, and that they told --  
4 they told him that they took him somewhere in Montana, took  
5 Bobby to somewhere in Montana. And then he also indicated that  
6 Nick, while they were out there, Nick Woodford dropped his  
7 cellphone out in Montana when they were out there with Bobby.

02:53 8 Q. Was Mr. Odeneal picked up with the others during the  
9 course of the -- after the federal Criminal Complaint had been  
10 issued?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And did you make contact with him out in Williston?

02:53 13 A. Yes, which each individual that came out, one of us from  
14 the -- one of us from the FBI told them who we were, that they  
15 were being arrested on a federal charge of kidnapping. Well, I  
16 told James, when it was his time to come out, who I was, that  
17 he was being arrested on a federal offense of kidnapping, and  
18 he proceeded to say, "I never kidnapped anybody. All I did was  
19 line the trunk with plastic."

02:53 20 Q. You spoke with the Williston Police Department detectives  
21 about a tattoo that Mr. Odeneal has on his person?

02:54 22 A. That is correct. They asked him during one of their  
23 interviews about the tattoo that he has on him. It's a tattoo  
24 of Number 23. He indicated that that was a tattoo of the  
25 Peckerwoods gang, which is a -- which is a known white

1 supremacist prison gang.

2 Q. Did he indicate that he was affiliated with that group in  
3 some way?

4 A. With the tattoo.

02:54

5 Q. Mr. Butler, was he spoken with during the course of this  
6 investigation?

7 A. Yes, he was.

8 Q. And when was that?

02:55

9 A. He was spoken with when he was transported, when we  
10 arrested everybody and he was transported.

11 Q. Did he indicate there was some drug distribution going on  
12 amongst this group of individuals?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Can you briefly describe what it is that he talked about?

02:55

15 A. He just basically described that they were selling meth.  
16 He talked about who he was getting it from and, you know, that  
17 it was -- you know, he was the leader. It was his  
18 organization, his group, and they were just selling drugs, or  
19 meth specifically.

02:55

20 Q. During the course of time -- the course of this  
21 investigation and the interviews of the various individuals,  
22 was there any indication that Mr. Butler had directed any of  
23 these individuals to kill Bobby, Mr. Osterhout?

02:56

24 A. Yes, a few people stated to -- Zachary Mills, I believe he  
25 was told to -- they were told that they needed to go and chase

02:56

1 after Bobby when he jumped out of the trunk when they were in  
2 Montana and kill him or that he would have them killed. He --  
3 also with Tyler white, you know, when they first went out  
4 there, Tyler was -- Tyler was thinking -- at least what he  
5 explained to me, he was thinking that the intention was just to  
6 drop him off, but when Bobby jumped out of the trunk, Jeff  
7 directed all of them to go and kill him.

02:57

8 Q. Did Mr. Mills, during the course of his interviews with  
9 Montana or Oregon authorities, indicate that he believed Mr.  
10 Osterhout was actually dead at the time they left him?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What did he say with respect to that?

02:57

13 A. He basically said that -- that they beat him up out there  
14 and that they stomped on his neck until he stopped gurgling,  
15 and they left him there because they thought he was dead. All  
16 of them that were there thought he was dead, so then they left.

17 Q. Do you see the person that you know as James Odeneal in  
18 court today?

19 A. That is correct.

02:58

20 Q. Would you describe what he's wearing, point him out?

21 A. Yeah, he's the gentleman wearing the black shirt with the  
22 rolled-up sleeves.

23 MR. VOLK: All right. That's all I had, Your Honor.

02:58

24 THE COURT: Mr. Glass, I'm going to allow you to  
25 examine first, and you let me know when you need to leave.



1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. GLASS:

3 Q. Officer Frank --

4 THE COURT: If you could pull the microphone up or  
5 speak a little bit louder.

6 Q. (MR. GLASS CONTINUING) Okay. Mr. Osterhout, he walked to  
7 a residence in Montana, is that correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. And did he say exactly where he was first  
10 assaulted? Was that in -- was he assaulted in Montana both  
11 times, or was one time in North Dakota? I kind of missed out  
12 on that.

13 A. The way that we know that he -- the way that it came to  
14 light that he walked is through his interview with police out  
15 there. When I interviewed him as far as the beating and  
16 everything, he said that he was assaulted here in North Dakota.

17 Q. Did Mr. White -- in any interviews, did anybody claim  
18 Mr. White had participated in assaulting Mr. Osterhout in North  
19 Dakota?

20 A. Yes, that is correct. The victim actually indicated that.

21 Q. Okay. I believe you had testified there were two  
22 individuals that assaulted him in the camper, correct?

23 A. Among others, yes.

24 Q. Okay. What was Mr. White's role when they were at the  
25 camper? Do you recall what they had told you in the

1 interviews?

2 A. Well, we just -- let's see. According to the -- according  
3 to the victim, the victim states that Tyler was one of the  
4 people that were actually kicking him while they were in the --  
5 while they were in the camper. At one point he was -- the  
6 victim was stood up by another individual. Another individual  
7 and Nick and Tyler kicked him in the face, and they made fun of  
8 it like it was -- and said that it was like punting a football,  
9 and he said that he thought he broke his nose, and that's what  
10 the victim indicates.

11 Q. At what point then during your interviews did you decipher  
12 that Mr. White was to be a lookout?

13 A. Okay. There was one interview that took place with Zac  
14 Mills out in -- I believe that was one in Montana because  
15 Mr. Mills was interviewed twice, once in Montana and once in  
16 Oregon. Now, in regards to him being a lookout in -- are you  
17 asking for in North Dakota or in Montana because there's two  
18 different times? The one in North Dakota -- I mean the one in  
19 Montana, Zac says that he and Tyler were told to watch the car,  
20 but then Zac goes on to saying that -- when he's interviewed in  
21 Oregon, that he actually participated in the beating out in  
22 Montana, but Tyler was still to watch, be a lookout.

23 Q. Okay. So in Montana, Mr. White was a lookout allegedly.

24 A. Allegedly. And then as far as North Dakota -- like I  
25 said, there's a lot of interviews. Yes, in the interview with

1 Williston Police Department, he witnesses Nick and Zac doing  
2 the beating. They told him to -- they told him to get --

03:04 3 MR. TUNTLAND: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I can't  
4 follow. It was a witness, he told them. Can we have some  
5 identification of the hearsay declarant?

6 THE COURT: Go ahead, and if you could start your  
7 answer again and identify who's speaking.

8 THE WITNESS: Okay. I couldn't understand what he  
9 was saying, but I don't understand.

03:04 10 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead and recite -- give your  
11 answer, but identify who's providing the information.

12 THE WITNESS: Oh, understood. Okay. So Tyler White  
13 is providing this information to Officer Zimmerman of Williston  
14 Police Department during their interview. And during the time  
03:05 15 when Bobby was being beaten in the camper, White tried to look  
16 in a few times to see what was going on, and they told him, no,  
17 to stay outside and to watch the yard.

18 MR. GLASS: I have no further questions, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Tuntland.

03:05 20 MR. TUNTLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. TUNTLAND:

23 Q. First off, Mr. Frank, you've been reading and referring to  
24 notes on a -- it looks like a yellow legal pad, is that right?

03:06 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Now, were those notes that you were writing while  
2 you were interviewing people?

3 A. No, they're after-the-fact notes.

4 Q. They're after-the-fact notes?

03:06

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Did you maintain your own notes of interviews?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you record any of your interviews?

03:06

9 A. I did not. Williston P.D. recorded interviews, as well as  
10 FBI out in Oregon, as well as we had an agent here that also  
11 recorded an interview as well.

12 Q. Okay. Now, you started your testimony by talking about  
13 Bobby or Robert Osterhout being, quote, taken to a campsite.  
14 what did you understand "taken" to mean?

03:07

15 A. Okay. Well, in the interview that I did with him on  
16 August 16th, he said that he was with a -- I believe he said he  
17 was with a -- he was with a Ryan. Yeah, he was with a Ryan,  
18 someone that he used to work with, and he asked Ryan to drop  
19 him off at the campsite.

03:07

20 Q. Oh, okay. So it wasn't an involuntary action. Somebody  
21 dropped him off at the campsite?

22 A. Yes. Yeah, like he voluntarily went to the campsite.

23 Q. Okay. Now, I was intrigued by this campsite. It sounds  
24 like a pretty trashy place. Was it?

03:07

25 A. I didn't go. I did never go there.

1 Q. You never have been there?

2 A. No, I have not.

3 Q. Have you ever looked at any pictures of the place?

4 A. No, I have not.

03:08

5 Q. I was wondering -- you were talking about it being

6 reported that the people living there were earning \$5,000 a

7 week or better from their drug sales?

8 A. They were earning money, but what I was told was 20 to 40

9 thousand dollars a week.

03:08

10 Q. Twenty to forty thousand a week, and they were living in

11 campers.

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Two of them were soft-sided campers?

14 A. Correct.

03:08

15 Q. Two of them were hard-sided campers?

16 A. I believe so.

17 Q. And one of them was a motor home.

18 A. I believe so. Like I said, I wasn't out there. This is

19 just all that I'm hearing from my -- the reports.

03:08

20 Q. Did you check the ownership of the camper that was

21 identified as belonging to James Odeneal?

22 A. No, I have not.

23 Q. You didn't check with -- was it registered in North

24 Dakota, do you know?

03:09

25 A. I don't know.

1 Q. Now, Zac Mills talked to the Yellowstone County Sheriff.  
2 I believe that was the first break you had in the case, is that  
3 right?

4 A. With Zac Mills, when you -- I mean, we talked to -- we  
5 talked to the -- I talked to the victim.

6 Q. You talked to the victim?

7 THE COURT: Hold on just a moment. Mr. Glass?

8 MR. GLASS: Your Honor, I've got to get going to that  
9 other hearing at 3:30.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. GLASS: I hate to, if you don't mind. That's  
12 what I told him last week.

13 THE COURT: Right. Right. No, I understand. What  
14 I'm going to do with regard to your defendant -- are you  
15 available tomorrow?

16 MR. GLASS: I am.

17 THE COURT: Are you concerned about any of the other  
18 testimony here today? Well, I know you're concerned, but --

19 MR. TUNTLAND: Well, we're going to point the finger  
20 at --

21 MR. GLASS: You know, if need be, I guess I could get  
22 a transcript, or something. I'll talk to Tom and -- or  
23 Mr. Tuntland and Mr. Espeseth tomorrow and see if there's  
24 anything else.

25 MR. TUNTLAND: I can come back tomorrow, Your Honor,

1 if you want to recess.

2 THE COURT: What's your availability tomorrow, Mr.  
3 Espeseth?

4 MR. ESPESETH: What time of day are you looking at,  
5 Your Honor?

6 THE COURT: Well, let's talk about when everybody  
7 would be available.

8 MR. TUNTLAND: It's my birthday. I'm available all  
9 day.

10 THE COURT: How about you?

11 MR. GLASS: Any time. Tomorrow morning preferably,  
12 Your Honor. My calendar is wide open tomorrow morning.

13 MR. ESPESETH: And I have an appointment in the  
14 morning. If I could reach that person, I could try to get him  
15 rescheduled, but that's scheduled from 9:30 to roughly 11:00,  
16 and then I have somebody coming late tomorrow afternoon at  
17 4:00, but once again, that's just an appointment. I could also  
18 try to reach that person to accommodate schedules.

19 THE COURT: Who's not available in the afternoon, or  
20 is everybody available in the afternoon?

21 MR. ESPESETH: I have an appointment at 4:00.

22 THE COURT: No, but, I mean, would 1 o'clock work,  
23 Mr. Glass?

24 MR. GLASS: One o'clock would be fine.

25 THE COURT: Well, I guess I do have a little concern

03:12 1 here regarding the defendant's right to have his counsel  
2 present during the preliminary hearing, and I was hoping we  
3 would maybe get through, but I guess that was probably too much  
4 optimism on my part, that we could finish the preliminary  
5 hearing portion and then maybe take up the detention part  
6 separately, but I think what we'll do is continue all of the  
7 hearings until tomorrow at 1 o'clock, if that's acceptable with  
8 everybody. Court is adjourned.

9 (A recess was taken from 3:12 p.m., Monday, September  
10 10, 2012, to 1:04 p.m., Tuesday, September 11, 2012.)

11 - - - - -

12 (The above-entitled matter came before the Court, The  
13 Honorable Charles S. Miller, Jr., United States District Court  
14 Magistrate Judge, presiding, commencing at 1:03 p.m., Tuesday,  
15 September 11, 2012, in the United States Courthouse, Bismarck,  
16 North Dakota; with counsel appearing on behalf of the  
17 respective defendants as hereinbefore indicated. The following  
18 proceedings were had and made of record in open court with  
19 Defendant Woodford, Defendant White, and Defendant Odeneal  
01:03 20 present:)

21 THE COURT: We'll go back on the record in  
22 Magistrate's Number 4-12-152, United States of America versus a  
23 number of defendants. Present in court is Mr. James Odeneal  
24 and his counsel, Mr. Tuntland. Mr. Tyler White and his  
01:04 25 counsel, Mr. Glass, is present. And Mr. Woodford and his



1 counsel, Mr. Espeseth, is present. Mr. Volk is here on behalf  
2 of the United States. Mr. Hagler is here on behalf of the  
3 United States as well.

01:04 4 we're continuing with the hearing -- the preliminary  
5 hearing and also the combined hearing on the issue of release  
6 or detention. I think when we left off yesterday, Mr.  
7 Tuntland, you were questioning. You may resume.

8 MR. TUNTLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 TERRENCE FRANK,

01:04 10 having been previously sworn, was examined and testified  
11 further as follows:

12 Q. (MR. TUNTLAND CONTINUING) Now, Mr. Frank, you testified  
13 yesterday that when agents came to this yard where the five  
14 campers were, they were confronted, was the word you used, by  
01:05 15 James Odeneal. Were you there?

16 A. No, sir, I was not.

17 Q. Okay. The report of the confrontation doesn't indicate  
18 any threats to use violence on Mr. Odeneal's part, is that  
19 right?

01:05 20 A. Not to my knowledge.

21 Q. Actually, all he did was ask people why they were there?

22 A. As far as I know.

23 Q. Okay. And it was your testimony that from the statements  
24 that were taken when Bobby was taken into the camper, the  
01:05 25 lights were out, is that right? They were put out?

1 A. Yes, that's --

2 Q. Do you know if they were out when he entered or if they  
3 were turned off after he entered?

4 A. I'm not sure.

01:06 5 Q. Okay. It was dark outside, is that right?

6 A. I'm not sure. I wasn't there.

7 Q. Okay. And then you said, quote, James was also there and  
8 he was told to get out. who told you -- who said that to you?

9 A. I'm going to have to refer to the notes.

01:06 10 Q. would you do that?

11 A. Okay. According to a -- according to the interview  
12 between Tyler White and Officer Zimmerman from Williston P.D.,  
13 during the course of that interview it was noted that Tyler  
14 said that James would go knock on the door, look in to see  
15 what's going on, and so during that interview he said that  
16 James would go knock on the door and see what was going on.

01:07

17 Q. Did you have any information, what was going on when James  
18 knocked on the door?

19 A. Well, according to a -- according to another interview by  
20 Officer Zimmerman, again from Williston P.D., of James Odeneal,  
21 he stated to them that they used his camper for the assault.

01:07

22 Q. Yes?

23 A. Excuse me?

24 Q. But that still doesn't answer me if, when James looked in,  
25 if he saw anything going on. Do you know if he did?

01:08

1 A. I'm not -- I'm not aware.

2 Q. Okay. Have you talked to any of these individuals  
3 yourself?

4 A. Yes, I did. I interviewed Tyler White.

01:08

5 Q. Anybody else?

6 A. I mean, I told them at Williston -- or at Williams County  
7 who I was, what they were being arrested for. The only thing  
8 that James said to me, like I said yesterday, when I told him  
9 for kidnapping, that he was being charged with kidnapping, he

01:08

10 said he didn't kidnap anybody. All he did was line the trunk.

11 Q. Okay. Now, did any of the people accused of this crime  
12 express fear of Pops Butler?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Who did?

01:09

15 A. That would be Zachary Mills.

16 Q. Okay. Anybody else?

17 A. As far as Pops Butler?

18 Q. Yep.

19 A. No, not as far as Pops Butler.

01:09

20 Q. Now, let's see. According to Tyler, there were, quote,  
21 the four horsemen dealing meth, and you mentioned Jeff Butler.  
22 That's Pops Butler, is that correct?

23 A. That is correct.

01:10

24 Q. And Tyler said that Pops was the leader, and Tyler was the  
25 weight man, and I didn't get what the names and positions of

1 the remaining two of the four horsemen were.

2 A. So the other two -- you already mentioned Jeff. We  
3 already mentioned Tyler. Nick was considered the enforcer, as  
4 well as dealer of meth. And James was just a user and a  
5 dealer.

6 Q. And this was according to who?

7 A. This is according to Tyler White.

8 Q. Okay. So James was a user and a dealer.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And somebody talked to Nick about his part in the  
11 assault, and he said that his part in it was to whoop Bobby, is  
12 that right?

13 A. At one point with his interview with Williston P.D.,  
14 Detective Dave Peterson, yes, he said that that was his role in  
15 it.

16 Q. Okay. And you mentioned something about, Nick was told to  
17 do something. Do you recall who told him to do what in  
18 relation to the assault?

19 A. During the interview with Nick Woodford, the same  
20 interview that was done by Detective Peterson, he indicates  
21 that they were told to put him in the car, and he's saying --  
22 and he says, "so we did."

23 Q. Did he say who told him to do that?

24 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

25 Q. Now, James was interviewed two times, wasn't he -- three

1 times, I guess?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. But during the second interview he expressed -- he told  
4 somebody that he was afraid of Pops, I believe. Isn't that  
5 what he said?

6 A. According to -- after the second interview, according to  
7 Detective Peterson, he states in quotes that he fucked up and  
8 he is scared and wants his name changed if he tells his story  
9 on camera.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And that he did -- all he did was lined the trunk with  
12 plastic and loaded Bobby.

13 Q. Now --

14 A. So I'm not aware if he said anything else.

15 Q. Okay. I'm sorry I interrupted you.

16 A. That's okay. Sorry.

17 MR. TUNTLAND: Did you get it?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 MR. TUNTLAND: Okay. Thank you. I was talking to  
20 the court reporter. She has trouble when we talk over each  
21 other. I try not to do that, but I'm terrible.

22 Q. (MR. TUNTLAND CONTINUING) Now, when Bobby Osterhout  
23 managed to escape from the vehicle, you had some testimony that  
24 Pops Butler instructed people to kill Bobby or he would have  
25 them killed. Do you remember that testimony?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you ask any of the three people that were in the car  
3 in addition to Pops, in the passenger part of the car, if they  
4 actually took that threat to be serious?

01:15

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Do you know if anybody else did?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of at this point.

01:16

8 Q. Now, you -- if I could, the Complaint charges kidnapping,  
9 in violation of Section 1201(a), Subsections 1 and 2, and 2 is  
10 a special jurisdiction. Was there any kidnapping on a  
11 reservation or federal reservation that you're aware of?

12 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

13 Q. Any special federal jurisdiction involved?

14 A. I'm not aware.

01:16

15 Q. I may be reading that wrong. That may be 18 USC,  
16 1201(a)(1), and 18 USC, Section 2, which is aiding and  
17 abetting, but we're not alleging anything on a reservation or a  
18 federal reservation.

19 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.

01:17

20 Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Osterhout was apparently wrapped in some  
21 plastic and then placed inside a trunk that had been lined with  
22 plastic, is that right?

23 A. Yes.

01:17

24 Q. Whose car -- who owned the car with the plastic-lined  
25 trunk?

1 A. Jeffrey -- Jeffrey Butler. From what I've read in the  
2 police reports from Williston P.D., Jeffrey Butler.

3 Q. And from the reports, was Mr. Osterhout fighting or  
4 otherwise indicating that he was alive when he was placed in  
5 the trunk?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Now, I think you testified the instructions were to  
8 get rid of him, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Are you aware of any instructions to take him across state  
11 lines?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you -- have you ever been able to find out where  
14 Mr. Osterhout was dropped off?

15 A. Culbertson, Montana, is the closest point of reference  
16 that we have.

17 Q. That's where he knocked on a door.

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Do you know if he was dropped off in Montana or in North  
20 Dakota?

21 A. No, the -- I mean, I was not there. The -- that's where  
22 he -- that's where he went to the house where the resident  
23 called 911 that -- when the resident stated that he was all  
24 bloody and beaten. Culbertson, Montana, is located a little  
25 bit a ways from North Dakota, so the logical inference would be

1 that he was taken to Montana, unless he walked.

2 Q. or hitchhiked?

3 A. Excuse me?

4 Q. or hitchhiked?

01:20 5 A. I can't understand you. I'm sorry.

6 Q. or hitchhiked?

7 A. or hitchhiked?

8 Q. Yep.

9 A. That could be a possibility.

01:20 10 Q. or grabbed a ride on a truck?

11 A. Could be a possibility.

12 Q. Okay. You just don't know, do you?

13 A. Just -- no. No, I don't.

14 Q. Now, Zac Mills lost his cellphone. Has his cellphone been  
01:20 15 located?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where was it found?

18 A. Montana.

19 Q. Whereabouts?

01:20 20 A. On a dirt road located by the residence. When deputies  
21 out there went to go search around the area where Mr. Osterhout  
22 was found or where he says in the area where he was, they  
23 located the cellphone there.

01:21 24 Q. Okay. And was Mr. Osterhout interviewed to determine  
25 whether or not he carried the cellphone there? I guess it



1 wouldn't have mattered because he didn't even remember being in  
2 Culbertson, did he?

3 A. No, he did not.

01:21 4 MR. TUNTland: Okay. Thank you. I have no further  
5 questions.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth?

7 MR. ESPESETH: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. ESPESETH:

01:21 10 Q. Special Agent Frank, you indicated Culbertson is some  
11 distance from the state line. Do you know how far?

12 A. No, I do not.

13 Q. And the call for 911 came in to a resident in or near  
14 Culbertson. Do you know if that resident actually lives in the  
01:21 15 city or outside of city limits of Culbertson?

16 A. I'm not sure.

17 Q. And do you know if this person living in or near  
18 Culbertson lives in North Dakota or Montana?

19 A. The resident who called 911?

01:22 20 Q. Correct.

21 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

22 Q. And to follow up on a question from Mr. Tuntland,  
23 Mr. Osterhout remembers waking up in, what, Trinity Hospital in  
24 Minot?

01:22 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what did he remember -- what was the thing he  
2 remembered before that, being where?

3 A. He remembers being in a trunk.

4 Q. In North Dakota.

01:22

5 A. He was placed in a trunk in North Dakota, so --

6 Q. Do you have any indication that Mr. Osterhout was held for  
7 ransom?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Any information he was held for any type of a reward?

01:22

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did all of this transpire in less than 24 hours?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you ever interview Mr. Woodford?

14 A. No.

01:22

15 Q. Have you talked to Mr. Woodford at all?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Any interviews then were done by Williston Police  
18 Department?

19 A. Yes.

01:23

20 Q. Any other interviews of Mr. Woodford, to your knowledge?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And do you know who in the Williston Police Department did  
23 the interviews of Mr. Woodford?

24 A. Yes, I do, Detective Dave Peterson.

01:23

25 Q. Anybody else?

1 A. Not that I'm aware of.

2 Q. Do your records indicate whether Mr. Woodford was given  
3 his Miranda warnings before being interviewed by Williston  
4 Police Department?

01:23

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And who allegedly Mirandized my client?

7 A. That was Detective Dave Peterson.

8 Q. And you've seen that in some report somewhere? Is that  
9 what your source would be?

01:23

10 A. No, I actually watched the video and took notes from it.

11 Q. So there's an actual video of that interview that either  
12 you or the U.S. Attorney would have in their possession.

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And you're sure the Miranda warnings were given.

01:24

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Does the video that you were watching show how many  
17 Williston Police Department or other law enforcement officials  
18 were in the room with Mr. Woodford?

19 A. The video only shows Detective Peterson sitting across  
20 from a table from Nicholas Woodford.

01:24

21 Q. Do you have any information as to whether any other law  
22 enforcement officials were in that room with Mr. Peterson and  
23 Mr. Woodford?

24 A. Not from my vantage point, no.

01:24

25 Q. Anything in your reports or otherwise that you would have

1 any other information on that?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever drive the gravel road that the -- that Pops'  
4 car allegedly traveled?

01:25

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that on that gravel road  
7 there would be a sign saying, "Entering the State of Montana"?

8 A. No.

9 MR. ESPESETH: Nothing further, Your Honor.

01:25

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY THE COURT:

12 Q. Agent Frank, I think it was Mr. White who described the  
13 four horsemen and the roles that the four horsemen played. Did  
14 Mr. White indicate anything about what -- why Zac Mills wasn't  
15 considered part of the group in terms of the four horsemen?

01:26

16 A. No.

17 Q. I just want to make sure I'm clear in my mind. Is there  
18 any dispute in the testimony -- or not the testimony, the  
19 accounts that were given by the various participants to law  
20 enforcement officers as to who all went to Montana in the  
21 Butler vehicle?

01:26

22 A. No, sir, not that I'm aware of.

23 Q. So it was the four individuals who went?

24 A. That is the general consensus per the reports.

01:26

25 MR. TUNTLAND: Excuse me, Your Honor. You said "the

1 four." I'd like to have the names because at one point in time  
2 he said Mr. Odeneal went, but that was clarified, I believe.

3 Q. (THE COURT CONTINUING) why don't you indicate your  
4 understanding of the four people who traveled in the Butler  
5 vehicle?

6 A. It was Jeffrey Butler driving. It was Tyler White that  
7 was sitting in the passenger's seat, and in the rear  
8 passenger's seat it was Zachary Mills, it was Nicholas  
9 Woodford, and in the trunk was Bobby or Robert Osterhout.

10 Q. And did one or more of the participants in their  
11 interviews with law enforcement officers indicate that  
12 Mr. Butler gave instructions while they were in North Dakota to  
13 the effect, and I may be paraphrasing here, to get Osterhout  
14 cleaned up and get rid of him?

15 A. That is correct. That would be the victim, Robert  
16 Osterhout, told me that in an interview.

17 Q. Did any of the other individuals say or testify that that  
18 instruction was given in North Dakota as opposed to at the  
19 place where they ended up in Montana?

20 A. I just want to refer to this report, if I could, Your  
21 Honor. In the interview that I had with Tyler White, Tyler  
22 White indicates that after Zac -- after Zachary Mills was  
23 punished for something that he did prior to by Jeff Butler and  
24 a group of individuals, and Robert Osterhout told Zachary  
25 Mills' girlfriend, Rachelle Harwood, this got back to Butler

1 and -- that Robert told Rachelle what happened to Zachary  
2 Mills, and Butler found out about this, and Butler stated to  
3 them that they needed to go and take care of Bobby. And after  
4 that they watched Bobby very closely at the camper site.

01:31

5 Q. When did this conversation or statement alleged -- when  
6 was this allegedly made relative to the beating in North  
7 Dakota, if you know?

8 A. I do not know, Your Honor.

01:31

9 Q. If you know the answer to this question, the search of the  
10 camper that -- or the vehicle that was -- or the trailer that  
11 was Mr. Odeneal's, what was recovered from that camper or  
12 trailer?

01:32

13 A. I don't -- I don't know specifically what was -- like  
14 everything that was found in each camper. I was told, though,  
15 that, you know, drugs were found at least in each camper. As  
16 far as weapons are concerned, I only knew that -- and from  
17 Tyler White, as well as the police, that they found a shot -- a  
18 sawed-off shotgun in there. As far as Butler's -- Jeffrey  
19 Butler's, according to police reports, they found a rifle in  
20 there, as well as two handguns. And then in the -- in the  
21 camper that Nicholas Woodford was in, there was also a handgun  
22 in there as well, but as far as Odeneal, I'm not aware, just  
23 other than drugs.

01:32

24 Q. And the shotgun was where?

01:33

25 A. That was in Tyler White's. And, Your Honor, if I could

01:33

1 just go back to your previous question that you asked about  
2 wanting -- taking care of Bobby, just looking through the  
3 report -- and I apologize because there's a lot of different  
4 reports and statements, but according to the interview done on  
5 Zachary Mills by FBI out in Portland, it was -- it was  
6 indicated by Jeffrey Butler that he wanted Bobby dead.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Volk?

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. VOLK:

01:33

10 Q. Just to follow up on some of the Court's questions first,  
11 Agent Frank, you were discussing what was taken from  
12 Mr. Odeneal's camper. There was also some bloody items taken  
13 from that camper as well, is that correct?

14 A. That is correct.

01:34

15 Q. Which include what?

16 A. On a subsequent search warrant that was conducted after  
17 further information was found or discovered, they went in there  
18 and they cut out a screen. Well, they searched the camper and  
19 they saw bloodstains on some curtains, on some cushions, and  
20 also on some -- on a window screen, which they cut out.

01:34

21 Q. All right. Did Mr. Odeneal in any of his statements to  
22 law enforcement indicate there were efforts made to attempt to  
23 clean that up, clean blood up?

24 A. Yes.

01:34

25 Q. Who did he tell that to?

1 A. That was Williston, Williston police.

2 Q. Mr. Tuntland and, I believe, Mr. Espeseth were both asking  
3 you questions about the location where the beating of  
4 Mr. Osterhout took place, the second or subsequent one  
5 following his transport in the vehicle.

01:35

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Mr. Mills was interviewed by FBI personnel out in  
8 Oregon --

9 A. Yes.

01:35

10 Q. -- is that correct? And during the course of that  
11 statement, did Mr. Mills provide some information that he  
12 knew --

13 A. Yes, he did.

14 Q. -- they were in Montana?

01:35

15 A. Yes, he did.

16 Q. What did he say?

17 A. He told special agents that he had his iPhone with him and  
18 he was able to look up where exactly they were driving to, and  
19 it indicated that they were in Montana.

01:35

20 Q. And just to clarify, I believe the question was asked  
21 whether or not Mr. Mills lost his phone. Was it Mills or  
22 Mr. Woodford who actually lost his phone out at this location,  
23 do you recall?

24 A. From what I -- from what I've seen, it was Nicholas  
25 Woodford that lost his phone.

01:36



1 Q. All right. So Mr. Mills still had his iPhone in Oregon,  
2 is that correct?

3 A. Yes, that is correct.

4 Q. Actually showed the agents some text messages of threats  
5 that were sent to him out at that location?

6 A. That is correct. After Zac Mills left -- well, first,  
7 after what was done, what Zachary Mills indicated to FBI out  
8 there, as well as in interviews with Montana police, after  
9 everything was done, Butler said -- Jeffrey Butler said that he  
10 would kill anybody if they talked about what was done with  
11 Bobby, so Mills was still at the time being punished. He was  
12 able to regain Jeffrey Butler's trust, and Jeffrey told him  
13 that he could go ahead and have his -- he could have his  
14 vehicle back because Jeffrey Butler took his vehicle and his  
15 cellphone. He gave it back to him, gave his cellphone back and  
16 also gave him some meth to sell.

17 He also indicated that Zachary Mills needed to kill  
18 his girlfriend, Rachelle Harwood. This scared Zac, so Zac,  
19 once he got his vehicle back, he got his girlfriend and they  
20 fled North Dakota, and their first stop was in Montana, to law  
21 enforcement out there.

22 Q. Agent Frank, you've made reference during your testimony  
23 just now and earlier in reference to some other incident that  
24 happened with Mr. Mills at this camp site or this property.

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. Did Mr. Mills describe that he was beaten at this property  
2 sometime this past year?

3 A. Yes. When he was interviewed by FBI out in Oregon, he  
4 told them -- or Zachary Mills told them that he was caught  
5 attempting to steal a computer from Jeffrey Butler's friend.  
6 They found out about it or they saw it, and in response to  
7 that, Jeffrey Butler, Tyler White, James Odeneal, Nick Woodford  
8 and another associate that he calls Burt took Mills, restrained  
9 him with zip ties, took him into a basement of the house that's  
10 on the property and tortured him in the basement. They drugged  
11 him up with meth and they beat him with brass knuckles, other  
12 instruments, and used tasers. At one point there was an  
13 individual by the name of Kodiak that was there.

14 MR. TUNTLAND: Excuse me. I missed the name.

15 THE WITNESS: Kodiak, an individual that goes by the  
16 name of Kodiak.

17 MR. TUNTLAND: Like the island off the coast of  
18 Alaska?

19 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

20 MR. TUNTLAND: Okay.

21 THE WITNESS: But Kodiak, and he -- at one point  
22 during the assault, he took out a nine millimeter Ruger,  
23 pointed it at Zac's head and said that he would have killed him  
24 right now if it wasn't for Jeffrey Butler intervening.

25 After that, during the interview with FBI, he also

01:40

1 showed some of his injuries to the agents out there because he  
2 said he sustained broken ribs. He showed the agents out there,  
3 and they were able to observe discoloration and bruising on his  
4 ribs. He said that, as I was saying earlier, that after the  
5 assault, he was watched for a period of time, and then he  
6 regained Jeffrey Butler's trust and was able to get his things  
7 back.

01:40

8 Q. (MR. VOLK CONTINUING) You also testified that there was  
9 some sort of threat made to kill Mr. Mill's girlfriend. Can  
10 you explain what Mr. Mills said about that?

11 A. Yes. After he -- after he regained the trust of Jeffrey  
12 Butler, he was -- he was told that -- he was told to kill  
13 Harwood -- Rachelle Harwood because she knew too much about  
14 what happened to Bobby and also their gang, the family.

01:40

15 Q. And how did Ms. Harwood know what had happened to  
16 Mr. Mills?

17 A. Because Robert Osterhout told her what he observed and  
18 saw.

01:41

19 Q. And according to Mr. Mills, all three of the defendants in  
20 this courtroom participated in the assault of him on this  
21 property?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. As well as others.

24 A. Yes, as well as others.

01:42

25 MR. VOLK: That's all I had, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Glass, any further questions?

2 MR. GLASS: No, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth?

4 MR. ESPESETH: No, Your Honor.

01:42

5 THE COURT: Or Mr. Tuntland, I guess, is next.

6 MR. TUNTLAND: I guess I was next. No, I don't have  
7 any questions.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth?

9 MR. ESPESETH: No, Your Honor.

01:42

10 THE COURT: You may be excused, Agent Frank.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 MR. VOLK: Your Honor, I do have a statement from

13 Mr. Osterhout that he wished that we present to the Court.

14 I've provided a copy to each of the defense counsel. I don't

01:42

15 have an exhibit sticker, if I could have one. I've marked that  
16 as Government's Exhibit Number 1. I would offer that at this  
17 time.

18 MR. TUNTLAND: If it's okay with you, I'll just pass  
19 that down. I presume that's going to the question of bail or  
20 detention?

01:44

21 MR. VOLK: Correct.

22 MR. TUNTLAND: Okay.

23 MR. VOLK: Offer it at this time.

24 MR. TUNTLAND: No objection.

01:44

25 THE COURT: Mr. Glass?

1 MR. GLASS: No objection, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth?

3 MR. ESPESETH: No objection, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Government's Exhibit 1 is received. Do  
5 you have anything further?

01:44

6 MR. VOLK: We have no other witnesses or evidence to  
7 present. We would rest.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Glass, do you have any evidence that  
9 you want to present or any proffers of evidence that you want  
10 to present with respect to the issue of release or detention?

01:44

11 MR. GLASS: No, Your Honor, not at this time.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Tuntland, how about you?

13 MR. TUNTLAND: There's a couple of errors in the  
14 Pretrial Services Report. The date of birth, about halfway  
15 down, "The defendant, age, 22, advised that he was born on,"  
16 that was written December 12th, but I was there. It was  
17 December 23rd because he doesn't get -- he doesn't get  
18 birthdays. He's a Christmas baby.

01:45

19 And then right above on the first page where it says  
20 "Employment History/Financial Resources," it says Mr. White is  
21 not married and has no children. I presume it was cut and  
22 paste and we didn't do the name change, search and replace, but  
23 it should say "Mr. Odeneal."

01:45

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. TUNTLAND: Outside of that --

01:45

1 THE COURT: I'll let you make an argument for release  
2 or detention.

3 MR. TUNTLAND: On the prior record, it's not clear on  
4 page 2, but both charges that are listed were dismissed. And I  
5 think that is kind of clear, both Counts 1 and 2 were  
6 dismissed, Your Honor, and I don't think there's any dispute on  
7 that.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth?

9 MR. ESPESETH: Nothing, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Volk, if you -- well, I'll let you  
11 make an argument with regard to all the evidence.

12 MR. VOLK: Your Honor --

13 THE COURT: well, I tell you what, let's talk about  
14 the preliminary hearing and probable cause first, and then  
15 we'll probably address the release or detention issues  
16 separately for each defendant.

17 MR. VOLK: Sure. Your Honor, I guess from the  
18 probable cause standpoint, we believe that the evidence does  
19 establish probable cause for each of the defendants that are  
20 charged with the offense of kidnapping as principals and/or as  
21 aiders and abettors. The elements are relatively simple. They  
22 are that the defendants either individually or by aiding and  
23 abetting, unlawfully seized, confined, kept or detained a  
24 person without his consent.

25 I believe that the evidence establishes that

01:47 1 Mr. Osterhout was, in fact, thrown into the back of an  
2 automobile against his will while he was kicking and moving  
3 around, and transported in that vehicle against his will  
4 following a substantial assault in a camper site in Williston  
5 using brass knuckles, a taser, hands, feet and fists, that each  
6 of these defendants in -- well, first, Mr. Woodford was  
7 principally involved in the assault. I believe Mr. White was  
8 as well. Mr. Odeneal, I believe the testimony was, had  
9 observed that assault taking place through the statement of  
01:48 10 Mr. White that he actually looked in and observed it.

11 The second element is they were transported -- the  
12 person was transported in interstate commerce, meaning simply  
13 that he was transported across a state line. The initial  
14 assault and the placement in the vehicle took place in  
01:48 15 Williston, North Dakota, and per the testimony of a statement  
16 from Mr. Mills, they were physically in Montana at the time  
17 that Mr. Osterhout was removed or escaped from the trunk of the  
18 vehicle, where the second beating took place.

01:49 19 The final element is -- requires that he be held for  
20 ransom, reward or otherwise. The otherwise is rather broadly  
21 defined to include any reason that would be of any benefit to  
22 the actors. That could be to further assault him, to kill him,  
23 to prevent the discovery of his body, to prevent an immediate  
24 report or, frankly, to prevent his report of any activity,  
01:49 25 whether that be the assault, the kidnapping, or drug activity,

1 so the term "otherwise" can certainly include any of those  
2 particular actions or intent.

3 I think the evidence suggests that each of the  
4 defendants was a participant in that conduct. As I indicated,  
01:49 5 Mr. Woodford, by his own statement, was directly involved in  
6 the beating in Williston, in placing him in the trunk, and in  
7 the further assault in Montana.

8 Mr. White, by his own admission, was as well aware  
9 that the beating was taking place. The victim testified or  
01:50 10 provided a statement that Mr. White, in fact, participated in  
11 the assault himself. He admitted that he was advised to obtain  
12 plastic, which he did following that assault that took place,  
13 that he was aware that Mr. Odeneal had lined the trunk of the  
14 vehicle with the plastic, and that Mr. Osterhout was then  
01:50 15 placed in the vehicle. And Mr. White traveled with them to the  
16 state of Montana, where the second beating took place. I  
17 believe there's also testimony that he was told to stay in the  
18 car and watch the road as that second beating took place, so I  
19 believe there's probable cause to believe that he was involved  
01:51 20 or has committed this offense as well.

21 With respect to Mr. Odeneal, as I indicated before,  
22 the statement of Mr. White indicates that he was aware that the  
23 beating was taking place. He admits that he removed items from  
24 the trunk of the vehicle and then lined the vehicle with  
01:51 25 plastic. I think the testimony the Court heard this afternoon



01:52

1 that Mr. Odeneal was a participant in a prior beating of  
2 Zachary Mills, who certainly -- it's something from which the  
3 Court or a jury could draw an inference that Mr. Odeneal was  
4 certainly well aware of what was going on in his camper with  
5 respect to Mr. Osterhout. We've also heard testimony that  
6 Mr. Butler provided direction to these individuals to get rid  
7 of Mr. Osterhout as well. So, Your Honor, I believe that the  
8 evidence does establish probable cause as to each of the  
9 defendants.

01:52

10 with respect to the crossing of the state lines, the  
11 elements actually do not require that the defendants have  
12 specific knowledge that they've crossed a state line before a  
13 jury could convict. Just the simple fact that it did occur is  
14 a -- is the element that is necessary.

01:52

15 So with respect to Mr. Odeneal, I think the Court and  
16 a jury could certainly make an inference -- draw a reasonable  
17 inference that he knew that Mr. Osterhout was going to be  
18 placed in the trunk of the vehicle by his removal of the  
19 contents of the trunk of the vehicle, that Mr. Osterhout's body  
20 was going to be placed in there and obviously transported from  
21 the Williston location. I don't believe that it's necessary  
22 for us to prove that he had specific knowledge that he was  
23 going to be transported across a state line, simply that he was  
24 going to be transported in that vehicle. So, Your Honor, I  
25 believe that there is probable cause as to each of the

01:53

01:53

1 defendants.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Glass.

3 MR. GLASS: No argument, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Tuntland.

01:53

5 MR. TUNTLAND: First, we will concede there's  
6 probable cause. It's a very low threshold or burden, but I do  
7 want to --

8 THE COURT: I'll have you comment on release or  
9 detention --

01:54

10 MR. TUNTLAND: I just want to make two comments, very  
11 short.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

01:54

13 MR. TUNTLAND: First off, by agreeing there's  
14 probable cause, I want it understood that we disagree with most  
15 of the inferences and facts recited by Mr. Volk. There's still  
16 enough there. Number two, I want to make it clear that we are  
17 not waiving any notice under Rule 404(b) of the Rules of  
18 Evidence, and that's all.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Espeseth.

01:54

20 MR. ESPESETH: Well, Your Honor, at least I'm not  
21 conceding the issue of being in Montana yet or not. It seems  
22 like the only thing we have from the transporting from North  
23 Dakota to Montana allegedly is Mr. Mills, who at some point in  
24 time looked at his iPhone. But the testimony was that

01:55

25 Mr. Osterhout had got out of a trunk and run for a while, and

01:55

1 even the minimal standard arguably here is not met. when did  
2 he look at his iPhone relative to the jumping out of the trunk,  
3 the running away, allegedly being caught, allegedly being beat  
4 the second time? I realize it's a minimal standard, but there  
5 was no independent evidence other than Mr. Mills, which just is  
6 so speculative yet that it doesn't meet that minimum standard,  
7 so on behalf of Mr. Woodford, I contend they didn't meet  
8 probable cause.

01:55

9 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I conclude that there's more  
10 than sufficient probable cause for the charged offense for all  
11 of the three defendants, including more than sufficient  
12 probable cause that the border was crossed with the victim.

13 why don't we start then with Mr. Odeneal and the  
14 issue of release or detention to Mr. Odeneal.

01:56

15 MR. TUNTLAND: Pardon? On the detention?

16 THE COURT: I'm going to let Mr. Volk speak first.

17 MR. TUNTLAND: Well, can I shorten things?

18 THE COURT: Yep.

01:56

19 MR. TUNTLAND: We disagreed with part of the report,  
20 and unless somebody is willing to advance Mr. Odeneal money so  
21 he can fly back and forth between California and North Dakota,  
22 there's no reason to believe that he can make it to court if he  
23 -- because that's the only place he's got to go, is in  
24 California, so he's stuck here, and we agree with that.

01:56

25 THE COURT: Okay. Let's -- Mr. White -- Mr. Glass,

1 your client is requesting what?

01:57 2 MR. GLASS: Your Honor, Mr. White does have ties to  
3 North Dakota. He does have a wife that lives in Tioga. He  
4 does have children that live in Montana, of course, but he does  
5 have some family ties here to North Dakota. I guess what we  
6 would be requesting, if the Court would allow the release of  
7 Mr. White, we would comply with any type of conditions that the  
8 Government would have, including electronic monitoring, if so  
9 required.

01:57 10 In lieu of that, maybe a halfway or like BTC while  
11 the case is pending, at least there he would still be confined  
12 to a place where he has to check in and out of every day, so  
13 there would still be some monitoring to that extent. At least  
14 potentially he could get a job and work while this case is  
01:57 15 pending. He does have two dependents that he takes care of,  
16 the two children, and he has his wife in Tioga, so I guess I  
17 would ask the Court to consider an alternative to just straight  
18 detention.

01:58 19 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Volk? And I know I took  
20 things out of order here a little bit, but how about -- what's  
21 the Government's position with regard to Mr. White?

01:58 22 MR. VOLK: With respect to Mr. White, Your Honor, we  
23 do request that the Court detain him. I understand he has some  
24 family in Tioga, but, frankly, he has only been in North Dakota  
25 for a couple of years and it does not appear, as I read the

01:58 1 Bond Report, that he's on relatively good speaking terms with  
2 his family in Tioga. He indicates in the -- indicated to the  
3 probation officer that he currently has no place to live. He  
4 didn't even suggest to them that that would be a location for  
5 him to live. He's been living in a camper for the past few  
6 months, at a site -- at this property in Williston. So to  
7 suggest somehow that he would just simply be able to return to  
8 Tioga or go to a residential re-entry center I think is not  
9 appropriate.

01:59 10 He did indicate in the Bond Report as well that he is  
11 a frequent user of meth and has been for the past four months.  
12 Given the nature of the allegations concerning the drug  
13 activity here, as well as just the simple nature of the  
14 underlying offense conduct, violent nature of that conduct, he  
01:59 15 -- the victim at least had provided a statement that he was an  
16 active participant in that and that he did travel with this  
17 group during the course of the transport, Your Honor. We  
18 believe that he does present a strong danger to the community  
19 should he be released in any capacity, whether that be home on  
01:59 20 electronic monitoring or at a residential re-entry center.

21 The Court can also take into account the statement of  
22 Mr. Mills that Mr. White did participate in the previous  
23 beating of Mr. Mills at this property as well, so I believe  
24 that there is clear and convincing evidence that Mr. White is a  
02:00 25 danger to the community and that he should be detained.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Espeseth, I'll hear what you have to  
2 say with regard to Mr. Woodford.

3 MR. ESPESETH: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, my  
4 client does have some ties to Williston. He has an uncle who  
5 lives there. We would have reason to believe that he could  
6 stay with his uncle upon being released. We could make it a  
7 condition, obviously, that we have the written consent from the  
8 uncle that my client be allowed to stay with him as part of the  
9 release.

10 My client was employed right up until when he was  
11 arrested in August of 2012 at Sherwin Williams, and so we would  
12 have reason to believe he could be employed there. And once  
13 again, we could, if the Court is so inclined, get the written  
14 notice from Sherwin Williams that he would have a job to go  
15 back to upon his release. So for those reasons, we would be  
16 requesting that he be released upon whatever other conditions  
17 were satisfactory to the Court, but that he reside with his  
18 uncle and that he remain employed.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Volk.

20 MR. VOLK: Again, Your Honor, we would request  
21 detention of Mr. Woodford. I believe that the evidence is  
22 clear and convincing that he is a significant danger to the  
23 community, participating not only in this particular event, but  
24 the past event with Mr. Mills. As I recall the testimony, it  
25 seemed that Mr. Woodford in his statement indicated that he was

02:02

1 actually having fun participating in this assault of  
2 Mr. Osterhout, so I think the gratuitous infliction of  
3 violent -- violence and injury upon this victim certainly  
4 suggests that Mr. Woodford is a very active danger to the  
5 community.

02:02

6 while I realize he does have the uncle that -- that  
7 is there, he again is a more recent resident of North Dakota,  
8 only here since March of 2012, and has again been living in a  
9 camper on this property, renting space at this residence in  
10 Williston, which he indicates in the Bond Report was no longer  
11 available to him. I don't know if his uncle will take him  
12 back. I don't think the Court has any indication that his  
13 uncle would allow him to live there at this point.

02:02

14 The defendant also indicates he's a frequent drug  
15 user, marijuana, ecstasy and LSD, and I think given the nature  
16 of the underlying drug distribution conduct that's been going  
17 on or that the Court has heard testimony about, that also adds  
18 to the level of danger to the community by Mr. Woodford, Your  
19 Honor, so we would ask that the Court detain him as well.

02:03

20 MR. TUNTLAND: If I could, Your Honor?

21 THE COURT: Yes.

02:03

22 MR. TUNTLAND: Mr. Odeneal, I explained to him that  
23 if he would go to something like Bismarck Transition Center, if  
24 he's ultimately convicted, he would not get credit for time  
25 served because he would not be in the custody of the Attorney

1 General. His position has changed. He still can't leave North  
2 Dakota, but he would ask that he be granted permission to go to  
3 the BTC. The evidence shows he's the least culpable of all of  
4 the people, and we would ask that he be detained at BTC.

02:04

5 THE COURT: Mr. Volk.

6 MR. VOLK: Your Honor, we would resist that. Again,  
7 I believe that Mr. Odeneal has very, very limited contacts in  
8 North Dakota. I think his participation in this event, as well  
9 as the previous event with Mr. Mills, suggests he is as well a  
10 danger to the community, and that that placement at a  
11 residential re-entry center, whether that's BTC or otherwise,  
12 would not mitigate that danger, Your Honor, so we believe that  
13 would be inappropriate.

02:04

14 THE COURT: Well, I conclude, based on the evidence  
15 that's been presented, that the Government has proved by the  
16 preponderance of the evidence that each of the defendants is a  
17 flight risk. I further conclude that the Government has proved  
18 by clear and convincing evidence that the defendants are risks  
19 to the community. The only question here, I think, is whether  
20 or not the Court believes that it can impose terms that would  
21 be reasonable to alleviate the risks.

02:04

02:05

22 And with regard to the issue of flight and whether or  
23 not the defendants are a risk to the community, the defendants  
24 here are facing very serious charges for which they are likely  
25 facing very lengthy criminal sentences, not only for the

02:05



1 charged offense, but I suspect that by the time the Government  
2 seeks an Indictment from the grand jury, I'd be surprised if  
3 there are not additional charges relating to drugs and/or guns.

02:06 4 Each of the defendants has in their favor the fact  
5 that they could find no criminal history for the defendants,  
6 but -- and in most cases I would bend over backwards to release  
7 a defendant in this situation to some alternative less than  
8 incarceration.

02:06 9 But here the combination of factors of the underlying  
10 conduct for which the evidence is very strong in favor of the  
11 Government -- in fact, it's almost overwhelming at this point  
12 for each of the defendants that this victim was tortured, both  
13 physically and mentally in terms of being told that he was  
14 going to be done away with and wrapped in plastic and shoved in  
02:07 15 the trunk. I can't think of anything hardly more vicious. All  
16 of the defendants were complicit in that, even Mr. Odeneal. He  
17 certainly -- from the evidence it's fair to conclude he knew  
18 what was going on in the trailer in terms of the beatings, and  
19 I don't know what he thought the purpose would be of putting  
02:07 20 plastic in the trunk other than to -- other than for its  
21 obvious purpose.

02:08 22 If this were one situational incident and the  
23 defendants were high and I thought that there was some --  
24 something in their favor in addition to their clean record,  
25 maybe I would look at this differently, but here there's a

1 pattern of criminal activity that includes prior assaults,  
2 involvement in the groups where there have been other threats,  
3 significant -- very significant drug activity and guns.

02:08 4 And then what is even more troubling to the Court in  
5 terms of releasing these defendants is that they're -- each of  
6 them has got significant drug issues, and there's just -- the  
7 Court does not feel that there's sufficient protections here to  
8 release these defendants back in the community at this time.  
9 For all of these reasons, the Court concludes that the  
02:09 10 defendants will be held in custody pending trial. Court is  
11 adjourned.

12 (Concluded at 2:09 p.m., the same day.)

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